

CLAIMS

1. An improved method of manufacturing a laminate (10) that is plastically deformable until cured, the laminate comprising at least two layers (12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, or 24), the method comprising
- a) layering the layers (12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, or 24) to form an uncured laminate 10,
 - b) modifying at least one of the longitudinal edges (26 or 28) of the uncured laminate 10 to prevent plastic deformation of the longitudinal edge (26 or 28) during curing of the laminate 10 as a whole by applying a restrictive and removable material (30) to the edge (26 or 28),
 - c) curing the laminate (10),
 - d) removing the material (30) following curing of the laminate (10)
- the improved method being characterized by:
- the restrictive and removable material (30) is a pre-formed material (30) having a u-shape comprising a pair of opposing legs, the pre-formed material (30) having an overall configuration corresponding to the configuration of the longitudinal edge (26 or 28) of the uncured laminate (10).
2. An improved method of manufacturing a laminate (10) in accordance with claim 1, wherein the pre-formed material (30) is selected from the group consisting of film, foil, mesh, plastic, a lightweight metal construct, and any combination of these.
3. An improved method of manufacturing a laminate (10) in accordance with claim 1, wherein, following curing and removal from the cured laminate (10), the pre-formed material (30) maintains or returns to its pre-formed u-shape.
4. An improved method of manufacturing a laminate (10) in accordance with claim 1 wherein the pre-formed material (30) is provided with adhesive on the inner side which contacts the laminate (10).
5. An improved method of manufacturing a laminate (10) in accordance with claim 1 wherein the distance between the opposing legs of the pre-formed material (30) is less than the thickness of the uncured laminate (10).

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6. An improved method of manufacturing a laminate (10) in accordance with claim 1 wherein the pre-formed material (30) is further comprised of small prongs to bite into the outer layer of the laminate (10).

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